



Dodge County Healthy Soils Healthy Water March Forum And Field Demo

What was it?

The March field day was to continue the Healthy Soils Healthy Water groups' mission to give local farmers a better understanding of the importance of soil health and to promote the groups' cover crop incentives program and infiltration ring tests. The event was held in Columbus, WI at the Roche Family Farm.

The field day was held on Tuesday March 27th, and saw approximately sixty people attend. This included HSHW alliance members, NRCS, UW-Extension as well as farmers and agency staff from Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties.



Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soils Healthy Water Chairman, Tony Peirick brought the event to order, introduced the speakers to present, and thanked the Roche family for allowing the event to be held at their farm. After a lunch was served, UW-Extensions Crops and Soils Agent for Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties, Loretta Ortiz-Ribbing discussed the HSHW Cover Crops Incentives Program (CCIP).

Near Left: Jeff Gaska, a farmer from the Beaver Dam area, discussed his successes with frost seeding clover as a cover crop and a forage. It was stressed that the deadline for signing up for the frost-seeding portion of the incentives program was soon approaching.



Left: Afterwards, Senior Outreach Specialist with Nutrient and Pest Management for UW-Madison/UW-Extension, Jamie Patton discussed soil health in both concept as well as in application.



Top Right: Loretta once again came to the front of the room to discuss a soil health benefit, microorganisms. Specifically portraying what the rhizosphere is as well as how Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) and their symbiotic relationships with plants help to take up increased amounts of nutrients and expand the plants root systems.

All Images Below: Later in the day, the attendees met Jamie out in the field where she showed how to look for signs of soil health along with how to identify if you have compaction and how to manage tillage in certain situations.



The Dodge County Farmers for Healthy Soils Healthy Water Alliance Group would like to thank all of their sponsors for helping to make this event free of charge to attend. A list of all of our sponsors can be found at www.dodgecountyfarmers.com